Rapid Decisive Operations 101

25 Oct 2001 Final D

RDO

… is a concept for future joint operations. A rapid decisive opera
integrate knowledge, command and control, and operations to ac
desired political/military effect. In preparing for and conducting
decisive operation, the military acts in concert with and leverage
instruments of national power to understand and reduce the adv
critical capabilities and coherence. The United States and its all
metrically assault the adversary from directions and in dimensio
which he has no counter, dictating the terms and tempo of the op
The adversary, suffering from the loss of coherence and unable t
his objectives, chooses to cease actions that are against US inter
his capabilities defeated.

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Synopsis

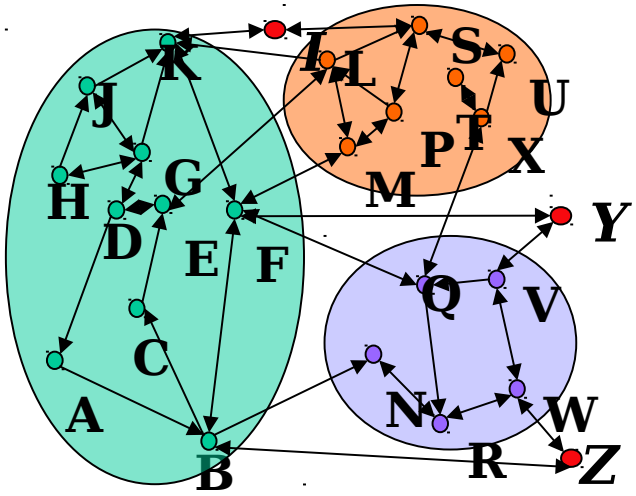
- Not an operational concept…. Get over it.
- "USJFCOM experimentation vehicle for transformation"
  - **Central concept for MC 02 and OC 04**
- "Operational level smaller scale contingencies
  - but, applicable across the spectrum"
- Philosophical "break" from the phased approach of current joint operations (and that's good)
- "Not designed for long-term commitment or to resolve enduring problems"
- "**Knowledge-centric**, **effects-based**, coherently joint, fully networked" (maybe not be so good)

Compelling Military Challenge of RDO

IF.. ***A Standing JFHQ***

Informed by:

Operational Net Assessment



Employs

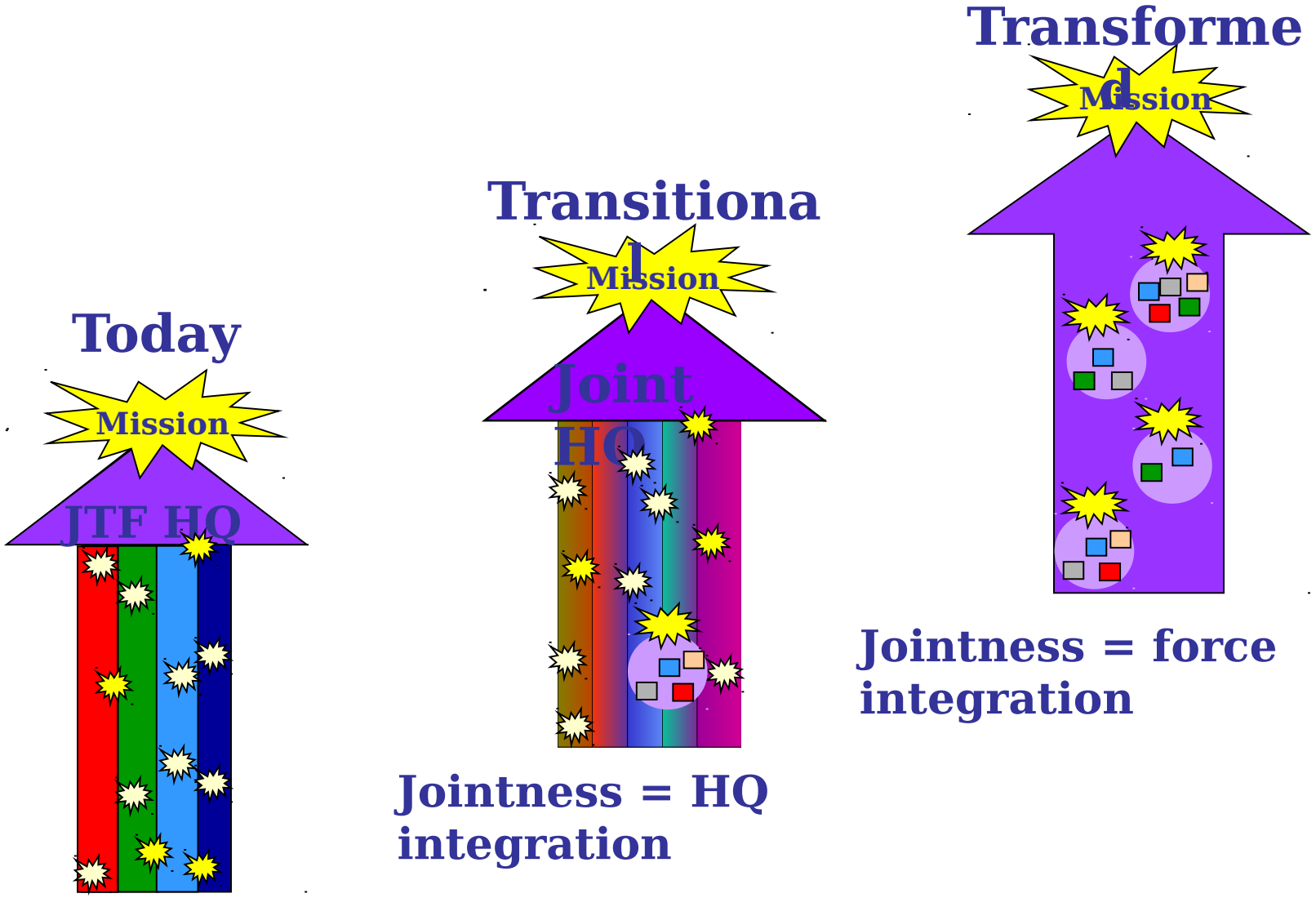
Effects-Based Operations

(From Rapid Decisive Operations)
A process for obtaining a desired strategic outcome or "effect", on the enemy, through the synergistic, multiplicative, and cumulative effects achieved by applying the full range of military and national capabilities at the

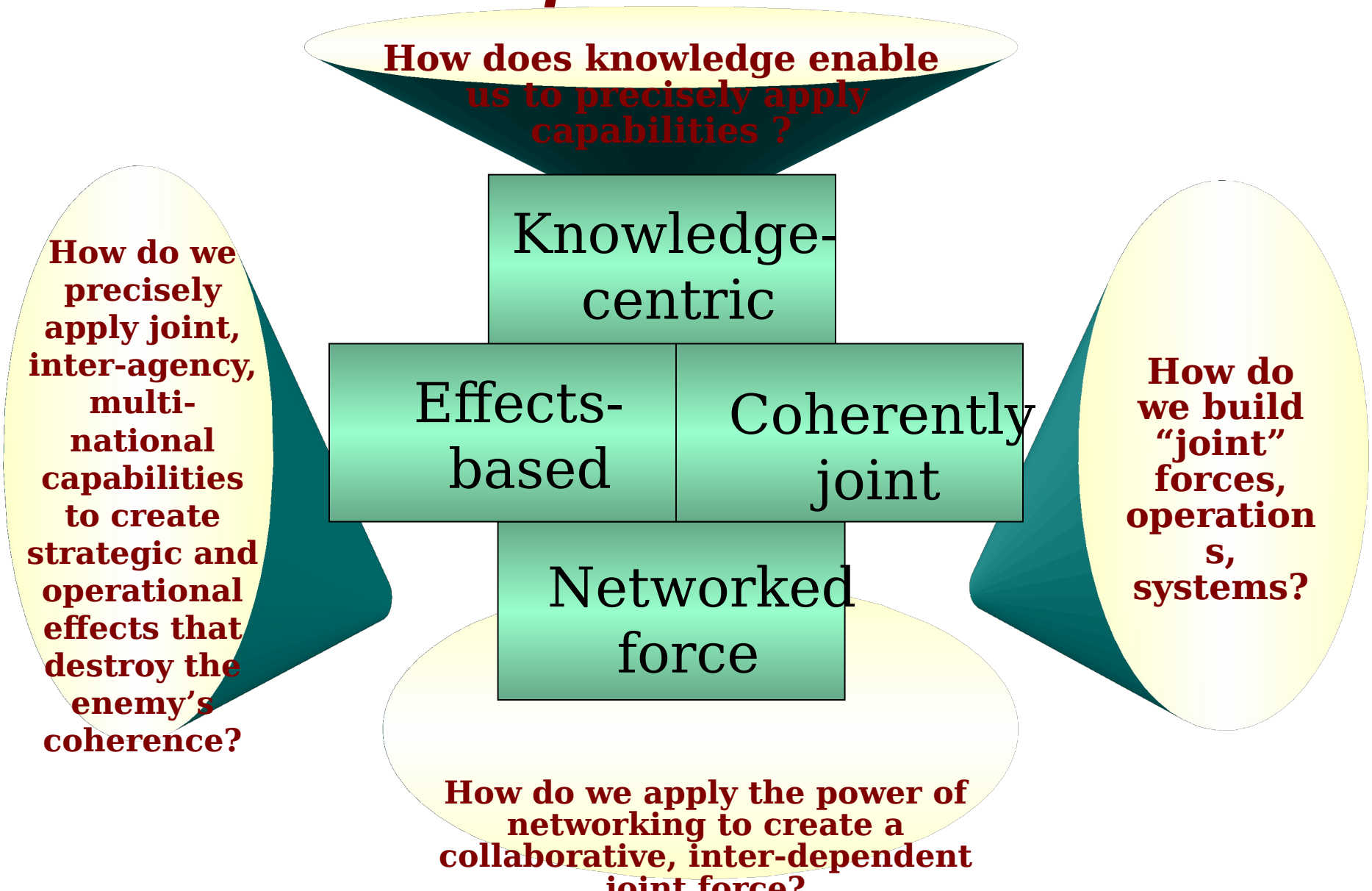
THEN..

Rapid Decisive Operatio

Transforming Jointness



Characteristics of Future Joint Operations


How does knowledge enable us to precisely apply capabilities ?
Knowledge-centric
Effects-based
Coherently joint
Networked force
How do we precisely apply joint, inter-agency, multi-national capabilities to create strategic and operational effects that destroy the enemy's coherence?
How do we build "joint" forces, operations, systems?
How do we apply the power of networking to create a collaborative, inter-dependent joint force?

Knowledge

More knowledge = more precise focus. Understand the desired effect, deploy tailored capabilities; increase speed & decisiveness

- **analysis of a potential adversary's national power (PMESI²)**
- **Common Relevant Operational Picture - timely, fused, accurate, assured, & relevant info; tailored to meet requirements of the joint force**
- **Joint Intel, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance - network approach to the management of ISR assets to support the**

Rapid Force Deployment

Rapid deployment ultimately relies on early decision making informed by better situational understanding

- **Improved Joint Deployment Planning Process**
  - **Concurrent collaborative joint deployment planning & execution based on better situational understanding**
- **Forward presence and prepositioning**
- **Accelerated JRSOI, "ready off the ramp"**
- **Transportation capabilities: (TSV, HSV ULA, etc.)**
- **Tailored forces and logistics: Reduced lift requirements enabled by better situational**

Dominant Maneuver

Integrated Application DM, PE and IO are essential to successful RDO

- **Knowledge enables speed, surprise, and tempo; allows unpredictable, ambush-like operations**
- **Task organized elements conduct distributed maneuver throughout the JOA**
- **DM creates opportunities for PE**

Precision Engagement

Integrated Application DM, PE and IO are essential to successful RDO

- **Situational awareness, mobility, weapons range and precision are keys**
- **Linking of sensors, delivery systems, and effects = faster decision to action tempo**
- **Kinetic and non-kinetic means to produce desired effects**
- **PE forces enemy dispersion, increases opportunities for DM**

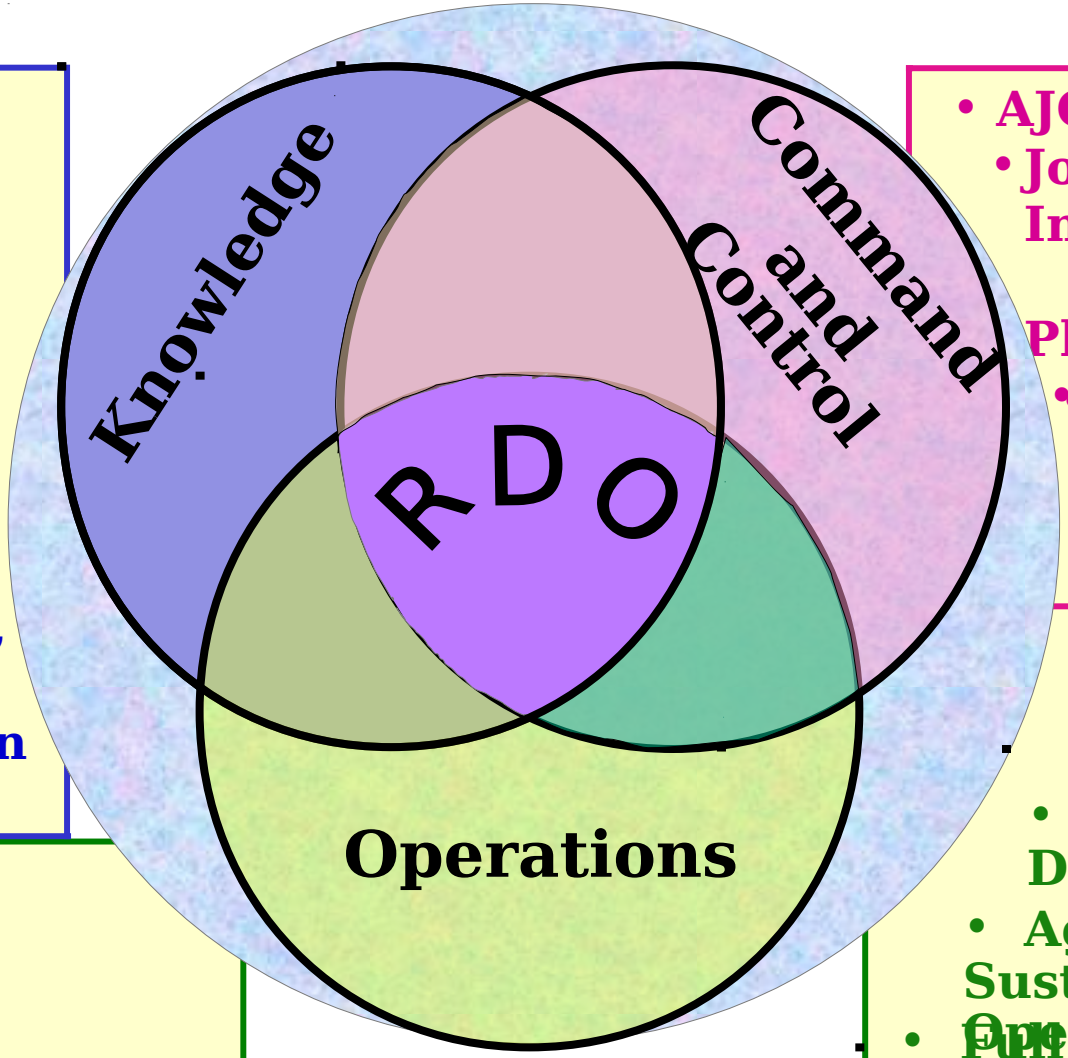
Access

Set conditions for rapid commencement of decisive operations

- **CINC pre-crisis activities set conditions for shaping the battlespace – Theater Engagement Plan (TEP)**
- **Build strong alliances and isolate the adversary physically & psychologically – CINC, interagency, & coalition involvement**
- **Gain and Maintain Access:**
  - **Mitigate enemy anti-access measures**
  - **Project overwhelming combat power**
  - **Multiple, time-definite entry points**
  - **Reliance on stealth, precision weapons, integrated C2 & ISR, decoys, deception ops**
- **Dimensional superiority to achieve rapid,**

Concept Relationships

- Operational Net Assessment
- Common Relevant Operational Picture
- Joint, Intelligence, Surveillance, & Reconnaissance



- AJC²
- Joint Interactive Planning
- Multinational Interagency Operations

- Dominant Maneuver
- Precision Engagement
- Information

Operational Enablers

- Assured Access
- Rapid Force Deployment
- Agile Sustainment Operations
- Full Dimensional Protection

So What's "New?"

- **Today**
  - Deconflicted
  - Sequential
  - Progressive
  - Linear
  - Attrition-based
  - Symmetrical
  - Terrain Oriented
  - Force Oriented
- **Tomorrow**
  - Integrated
  - Simultaneous
  - Parallel
  - Distributed
  - Effects-based
  - Asymmetrical
  - Time orientation
  - Capability oriented

Pluses

- Generally consistent with Marine Corps concepts, emerging doctrine, and expeditionary ethos
  - Describes the same future operational landscape as OMFTS
    - Asymmetric enemies, anti-access strategies
    - Requirement to “kick down the door” or find gaps
- This is a concept Marines can live with, even co-opt, but must do so on their own terms:
  - Maneuver Warfare
  - True expeditionary capability
  - Forward presence/FDO (“influence and deter”)
  - Sea based, combined arms approach (“rapidly and decisively coerce, compel, or defeat… without extensive buildup”)
  - Reconstitution at sea, remain in the area

Minuses

- Inconsistent with fundamental nature of conflict: fog & friction
- Reflects Joint Community misinterpretation of “expeditionary”
  - Speed and mobility does not equal “expeditionary”
  - Mindset and ethos
- Overly knowledge dependent/optimistic
  - Yet, talks about asymmetry/non-linear enemies….
  - Speed of maneuver is a double-edged sword….
  - How much knowledge do you need before you act?
  - Where does real knowledge come from?
- Some “Enabling Concepts” a bridge too far?
  - e.g., ONA, EBO
- Maximizes staff role and marginalizes the commander’s
- Focus on the JF commander and staff, despite words about “tactical level”

Guidance to Marines in the Fray

- Marines are Joint warriors
  - Take a look at ***EMW*** (Joint/Multinational Enabling)
  - MAGTFs can function as forward JTF HQs
- Co-opt "knowledge"
  - "Preparation for RDO is deliberate and continuous"
    - "early, detailed contingency planning"
  - JFHQ will have good SA in a given AOR (ONA)
  - SA/strategic warning validates focused forward presence (OC 04)
    - "ONA provides high level of SA "well in advance of mil ops"
- Understand the breadth of *STOM*
  - be familiar w/***Beyond C2*** *(*empower commanders, encourage initiative, reach-back etc.)
  - … MPF (F) and sea basing
- Advocate fog & friction on the non-linear battlefield

Proposed Marine Corps Position

- “Concur”
- RDO is basically consistent with EMW/STOM
  - We must engage on our terms
- Supporting “concepts” need a closer look
- Expeditionary is more than a “race to the objective”
  - Balance between “decisive” and “rapid”
- RDO is more than “precision strike”
- “Knowledge” is a good thing; however, Marines do not accept an assumed “information superiority,” and will not wait for 100% fidelity before they act
- Forward presence, based on strategic SA (“knowledge”) provides the JFC with a sustainable, inherently “protected” force capable of “rapid” employment across the spectrum

…and finally

"The real challenge in war is not acquiring perfect information. It is learning how to fight successfully without it."

Rick Sinnreich
Lawton *Constitution*